

Frigate-bird at Fremantle.—About noon on May 5, 1951, while a passenger on s.s. *Largs Bay* as she was leaving Fremantle, I saw a Frigate-bird (*Fregata* sp.) circling inside the harbour entrance, not far from the ship. Its unmistakable angular outline, with deeply-forked tail and large pointed wings were clearly seen; the head and bill were buff, and there was a white diamond-shaped patch on the fore-part of the abdomen; the plumage was otherwise black. This description, taken from notes made at the time, makes it clear that the bird was one in immature plumage, but it is not possible to be sure of the species. It is most likely to have been a specimen of the Greater Frigate-bird (*Fregata minor*), which breeds on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

The only previous record of a Frigate-bird so far south on the coast of Western Australia is of one captured alive in the Swan River on May 4, 1917, after stormy weather. This was identified as a specimen of *F. minor*, and of the form which breeds on Christmas Island (W. B. Alexander, *The Emu*, vol. 17, 1918, p. 238; vol. 20, 1921, p. 161).

From information kindly supplied by the Weather Bureau there does not appear to have been anything abnormal preceding the appearance of the bird here recorded. The fact that both records are in early May suggests that members of this species tend to wander southwards at this time of year.

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Gilbert's Note-book on Marsupials.—Respecting Mr. Calaby's comments (*W.A. Nat.*, 4, pp. 147-8) I offer the following solution of the problem concerning the type locality of the western race of the Pig-footed Bandicoot. I premise that "the original label of the specimen seems to have been lost. The present one is in Oldfield Thomas' handwriting, and says 'Boorda, 40 mi. N.E. of Kirltana, W.A.' . . . The skull has the back part broken . . . the ears have what could be shot holes in them . . ." (*Per* T. C. S. Morrison-Scott, British Museum, in a letter to me dated September 28, 1954).

The meaning of the word "boorda" (or "burda"), in the context with which we are concerned, is not clear. In the South-western (Bibbulmun) language it had the meaning of "presently, by and by". It does not appear that it had any other meaning in that language. If, then, it was, in fact, applied to the Pig-footed Bandicoot by South-western aborigines, they must have taken it from another language or dialect, presumably from one spoken by a tribe which inhabited the salt lake country. It is noteworthy that there is in that country a township called Boodaroekin. South of that township, about midway between Merredin and Southern Cross, is the township of Boddalin. In the absence of evidence it seems best to take the meaning of "boorda", for our present purposes, as being that given to it by John Gilbert, i.e. that it means the Pig-footed Bandicoot. It may be concluded that it is not cou-